



# PARISH OF ST JAMES

*serving the communities of Christleton, Cotton  
Abbotts, Cotton Edmunds, Littleton and Rowton*

**June 2018**

**50p**

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## Churchwardens' Update



*Tina Lightfoot*

The journey continues: May has been a busy month for us at St James. On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Bettie and myself together with some of our sides people joined churchwardens and sides people from across the deanery for the Archdeacon's visitation. The principle purpose of this annual event is the swearing in of churchwardens and sides people, but it also offers a great opportunity to meet Christians from across the patch, who are playing an active role in evangelising God's word. We also get the chance to hear about various diocesan initiatives. This year, we were told about 'Filling the Gap', which is part of the 'Transforming Lives' initiative. This is a joint venture between the Diocese of Chester and the Church Urban Fund.

School holidays are a time when many parents struggle to provide safe, fun activities not to mention food, if on a low budget. The provision of free school meals in term time is an essential part of their budget and when it is missing, someone in the family can often go without. 'Filling the Gap' is essentially Church communities providing food and fun for these children during the school holidays. For further

information about the project go to [tlttogether.org.uk](http://tlttogether.org.uk) There are also leaflets at the back of church. The nearest church to us involved in the project is Holy Trinity Blacon, if you would like to get involved.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May we celebrated our Lord's ascension and entered into our prayer season entitled 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Individuals, families and churches are all encouraged to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, within our own lives, the lives of those we love and care for and the wider community. Here at St James we held daily evening prayer led by the laity. There was something very special about knowing we were providing a pool of prayer for the parish at this important time as we wait for Pentecost. This year, the season of 'Thy Kingdom Come' coincided with Christian Aid week giving us the opportunity to focus on individuals and communities, who had and still are suffering great hardship. The worship team led us in a superb Christian Aid service to kick off the week and there has been a prayer station in church for folk to visit during the week. Our house to house collection raised over £3,000 last year and hopefully we will match that figure, if not exceed it again this year.

Our new PCC met on 21<sup>st</sup> May. It is wonderful to have so many people to share the load. We have people with a wide range of talents and gifts all keen to play their part in the work of the church here at St James. Of course, it is not only those on the PCC, but the wider congregation and community who are devoting time and gifts to the church. As you know, our giving initiative, which took place at the beginning of the year, focussed on the giving of time and talents in addition to financial help and that is very much beginning to bear fruit. Several people are offering help in a variety of ways. Not only are we grateful for their time and their expertise, but we are really enjoying working alongside you all. If you have yet to be contacted, having indicated you would like to be more involved or would like to do something for the church, please contact either Bettie or myself or any of the PCC and we will put you in touch with the most appropriate person.

There are a few things coming up in June, so keep your eye on noticeboards and the weekly news sheet. The most significant event happens on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the day when we are interviewing for our new rector. Of course, it isn't a given that we will appoint on the day, but we are confident that the right person for us has been guided by God to apply. We pray for discernment to choose the priest who will guide us, support us, comfort and cherish us in the future.

## **Parish Magazine**

**June 2018**

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**Thank you.**